

48

January 31, 2019

Ms. Courtney R. Avery, Administrator  
Illinois Health Facilities and Services Review Board  
525 West Jefferson, 2<sup>nd</sup> Floor  
Springfield, Il. 62361

**RECEIVED**

FEB 8 2019

HEALTH FACILITIES &  
SERVICES REVIEW BOARD

Re: Opposition to CON 18-042, Quincy Medical Group (QMG) Surgery Center in Quincy, Illinois

Dear Ms. Avery:

I am a Retired City of Quincy Supt. Of Inspection. In that capacity, I reviewed plans and building construction for the Quincy Medical Group clinic and Surgery Center, as well as the Blessing College of Nursing, addition of the Radiation bunker, and the Blessing Cancer Center. I have volunteered weekly at Blessing since 2007, in spite of a Quadruple bypass, back surgeries, and kidney stones. My family and our community depends on this facility to care for us, not only for the "easy" outpatient care, but to maintain expensive surgical suites, fully equipped, with professionally prepared staff who will be there for us when the situation is not quick and easy. Quincy Medical Group's proposed surgery center would impact this negatively.

Our population and the 50 mile radius cannot support this duplication of services, and siphon from the same pool of professionals. My primary physician is at QMG, and my cardiothoracic surgeon is at Blessing Physician Services. Having a choice is key, but if duplication and dilution occurs, I may eventually be left with no options locally. So many towns have lost their hospitals. Blessing has been a good steward and received community support, as it gives community services.

I respectfully ask that the Health Facilities and Services Review Board deny CON application 18-042. Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,



Brad Richmiller

# **B** BLESSING HOSPITAL

A member of the Blessing Health System

**RECEIVED**

FEB 9 2019

HEALTH FACILITIES &  
SERVICES REVIEW BOARD

1/31/19

Ms. Courtney R. Avery  
Administrator  
Illinois Health Facilities and Services Review Board  
525 West Jefferson, 2<sup>nd</sup> Floor  
Springfield, IL 62761

Re: Opposition to CON 18-042, Quincy Medical Group Surgery Center in Quincy, Illinois

Dear Ms. Avery:

My name is Chuck Johnson and I serve as Administrative Coordinator of Behavioral health Services at Blessing Hospital. I provided testimony at the IHFPRB Public Hearing the CON 18-042. I would like to take this opportunity to comment on the potential impact on Behavioral Health Services at Blessing Hospital from the proposed Quincy Medical Group CON to establish a cancer/surgical center. I must **oppose** this CON application, and urge the Review Board to **deny** it.

Blessing is a community not-for-profit with 41 licensed behavioral beds consisting of two adult units (with 10 and 16 beds each), and one child and adolescent unit (with 15 beds). The hospital has the only child and adolescent unit within a 100 mile radius and the only adult program within 80 miles in Illinois, Missouri and Iowa. There are no inpatient behavioral health adult or adolescent units in Northeast Missouri, and only one 10 bed adult unit in Southeast Iowa.

Over 50% of Blessing Behavioral Health admissions are referred by hospitals, mental health centers, and social service agencies outside of Adams County. While other hospitals in Hannibal, Missouri and Keokuk, Iowa closed their adult units, Blessing Hospital made a commitment to continue its inpatient and outpatient behavioral health programs.

Behavioral health admissions have increased from 1622 in 2010 to 2080 in 2018. Average daily census increased from 25.95 in 2010 to 34.12 in 2018. In other words, the need for this rare and precious resource is increasing.

Behavioral health programs are primarily utilized by an indigent and Medicaid population whose reimbursement cannot support its existence – not without the financial revenue from other hospital departments such as the Cancer and Surgical Centers. Blessing's commitment to indigent care is reflected in a 77% behavioral health public funding, including Medicaid and Medicare. Fifty-eight percent of behavioral health admissions are Medicaid, the Illinois per diem rate is \$433.45.

Broadway at 11th Street, P.O. Box 7005, Quincy, IL 62305-7005  
217-223-8400 [www.blessinghealthsystem.org](http://www.blessinghealthsystem.org)

# **B** BLESSING HOSPITAL

A member of the Blessing Health System

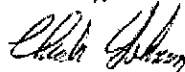
In addition to impacting behavioral health services the proposed CON would have the following negative impact on our community:

1. QMG proposal is a duplication of services. For the past 10 years Blessing and QMG have offered an outpatient surgery center on the QMG campus which Blessing owns and QMG manages. A second outpatient surgery center is not needed in our community.
2. Damage to the Safety Net and Community Benefit programs (providers who organize and deliver a significant level of health care and other related services to uninsured and service). Revenue from Blessing's outpatient surgery is used to support its not-for-profit mission of providing Safety Net services to the region. Opening a second surgery center would result in a loss to the current surgery center of nearly 12,000 cases and revenue of \$25-\$41 million which is needed by the community to keep Safety Net services operational. Additionally, as a non-profit healthcare provider, Blessing provides financial support to the education of healthcare professionals (Blessing-Rieman College of Nursing and Health Sciences, SIU Family Medicine Residency Program and charity care to those in need of healthcare, regardless of their ability to pay. The loss of outpatient surgery revenue threatens these and other community benefit programs.
3. Job loss, opening of a second surgery center would cost jobs. Blessing could lose approximately 400 jobs – 12 percent of the employee body - through the loss of a significant portion.
4. The need for community cooperation and health care planning. What is in this community's best interest is for Blessing and QMG to continue cooperation in joint planning and delivering key health care services. An example of this success is evident in the current joint partnership of the outpatient surgery center and with the Cancer Center. Blessing wants to continue work with QMG in improving the health of our community.

I urge you to consider the negative impact Quincy Medical Group's CON will have on the continued existence of Blessing Hospital's behavioral health, Safety Net and Community Benefit programs. I respectfully ask the Health Facilities and Services Review Board to deny CON application 18-042 to establish the Quincy Medical Group Surgery Center.

Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,



Chuck Johnson, NCC, ACS, LCPC

Broadway at 11th Street, P.O. Box 7005, Quincy, IL 62305-7005  
217-223-8400 [www.blessinghealthsystem.org](http://www.blessinghealthsystem.org)

Jan 30, 2019

Ms. Courtney R. Avery  
Administrator  
Illinois Health Facilities and Services Review Board  
525 West Jefferson, 2nd Floor  
Springfield, IL 62761

Re: Opposition to CON 18-042 Quincy Medical  
Group Surgery Center in Quincy, Illinois

Dear Ms. Avery:

My name is Debra Gallaher. I am a L.P.N.  
in the Surgical Services Dept at Bussing  
Hospital in Quincy, IL. I am opposed to  
the above-referenced CON project.

I am opposed to the above-referenced  
CON project because Quincy already has  
a Surgery Center and this would be  
a duplication of services, which would  
result in job loss. It would cause  
damage to the Safety Net and Community  
Benefit programs and services that is  
funded by revenue Bussing Hospital  
generates from Outpatient Surgery.

I respectfully ask that the Health Facilities  
and Services Review Board deny CON application  
18-042 Quency Medical Group Surgery Center.  
Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely

Debra Gaudaker

Debra Gaudaker

1/30/19

Ms. Courtney R. Avery  
Administrator  
Illinois Health Facilities and Services Review Board  
525 West Jefferson, 2<sup>nd</sup> Floor  
Springfield, IL 62761

**Re: Opposition to CON 18-042, Quincy Medical Group Surgery Center in Quincy, Illinois**

Dear Ms. Avery:

My name is Paul Warning and I am a therapist on the inpatient behavioral medicine service unit at Blessing Hospital. I have been with the organization for over 19 years. I am in opposition to the Quincy Medical Group Surgery Center for the following reasons:

1. The QMG proposal is a duplication of services. Blessing and QMG already offer an outpatient surgery center on the QMG campus. Blessing owns the service and QMG manages it. This has been a successful arrangement for more than 10 years now. Blessing would have no role in the proposed center. A second outpatient surgery center is not needed.
2. Much of the revenue Blessing generates from outpatient surgery is used to fulfill its not-for-profit mission of providing Safety Net services to the region. These Safety Net services include behavioral health care and trauma care. The Institute of Medicine defines the health care safety net as those providers who organize and deliver a significant level of health care and other related services to uninsured, Medicaid, and other vulnerable populations. The health care safety net is vital to the health of our communities and Blessing is the only provider in the region who offers these critical services. Insurance reimbursement does not provide adequate support for the delivery of inpatient behavioral medicine and trauma care. Opening a second surgery center would result in a loss to the current surgery center of nearly 12,000 cases and revenue of \$25-\$41 million. A significant portion of that revenue is needed by the community to keep Safety Net services operational

Additionally, as a non-profit healthcare provider, Blessing provides financial support to the education of healthcare professionals (*Blessing-Rieman College of Nursing & Health Sciences and the SIU Family Medicine Residency Program, an award-winning program that provides specialty training to new family physicians*); and charity care to those in need of healthcare, regardless of their ability to pay. While these are not Safety Net services, these are important community benefit investments, programs that cannot

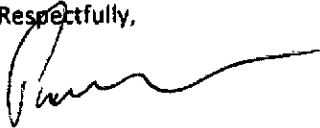
sustain themselves financially and rely on Blessing's support. The loss of outpatient surgery revenue threatens these and other community benefit programs.

UnityPoint, Quincy Medical Group's Des Moines, Iowa-based business partner, would be a 40 percent owner of the proposed surgery center. Therefore, a portion of the profits from the proposed center will leave the Quincy area.

3. Opening of a second surgery center would cost jobs. Blessing could lose approximately 400 jobs – 12 percent of the employee body - through the loss of a significant portion of is outpatient surgery business.
4. What is in the communities' best interest is for Blessing and QMG to continue cooperation in the delivery of key services. It has been successful with the current outpatient surgery center and with the Cancer Center. Blessing wants to continue working with QMG, not be put in a position to work against them in improving the health of our communities.

I respectfully ask that the Health Facilities and Services Review Board deny CON application 18-042. Thank you for your consideration.

Respectfully,



Paul D. Warning, LCPC  
Inpatient Clinical Therapist  
Behavioral Medicine Services  
Blessing Hospital  
Quincy, Illinois

January 31, 2019

Ms. Courtney R. Avery  
Administrator  
Illinois Health Facilities and Services Review Board  
525 West Jefferson, 2nd Floor  
Springfield, IL 62761

**Re; Opposition to CON 18-042, Quincy Medical Group Surgery Center in Quincy,  
Illinois**

Dear Ms. Avery:

I am Carol Espejo, M.D., a physician with the Blessing Health System for 13 years. I am writing to state my opposition to the CON 18-042 for the establishment of Quincy Medical Group Surgery Center.

As a physician with Blessing, I have the privilege of serving people in our community and outside communities from the tri-state area who are insured, underinsured, and uninsured. I count it a blessing to see patients without concerns about their ability to pay for my services as Blessing is a non-profit healthcare provider. Blessing has been providing excellent healthcare services to the community for many years while also offering services such as behavioral health care and trauma care. Not many communities of similar population can say the same thing. In fact, Blessing is the only provider in the region who offers these services. Because Blessing relies heavily on the revenue generated from the outpatient surgery to fund these programs, the establishment of a second surgery center, would jeopardize these services. We need the revenue from the outpatient surgery to sustain the needs of the Safety Net services. In addition, Blessing financially supports the education of healthcare professionals such as the Blessing Reiman College of Nursing and Health Sciences and the SIU Family Medicine Residency Program. As a physician, I can not overstate the importance of training nurses and physicians to fill these positions for the growing health care needs. Blessing needs all the revenues it can get, part of which comes from the surgery center, to sustain its support to these vital community programs.

Blessing had been in collaboration with Quincy Medical Group to deliver health care services to our community for many years. The Cancer Center, outpatient surgery center, and the Blessing Hospital have been avenues for this collaboration, which, in my opinion, have worked for the benefit of the community. It is in the best interest of Quincy if both groups continue to work together, in partnership, to provide key health services, looking for ways to work together, banking on shared goals, discussing ways to collaborate, instead of dividing, on issues and concerns expressed from both sides. We can work on what we have and do not need another surgery center. Even though we are non-profit providers and Quincy Medical Group is not, I know as a physician



that we all share the common goal of providing excellent health care to people in our community. It is possible to work together. But, I know that establishing another surgery center will work against any goal of collaboration.

I, therefore, respectfully ask that the Health Facilities and Services Review Board deny CON application 18-042.

Thank you for this consideration.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Carol Espejo', written over the printed name.

Carol Espejo, MD.  
Blessing Physician Services  
217-223-8400 ext. 7440

Courtney R. Avery

Administrator

Illinois Health Facilities Review Board

525 West Jefferson, 2<sup>nd</sup> floor

Springfield, IL 62761

**RE: Opposition to CON 18-042 Quincy Medical Group Surgery Center in Quincy, IL**

Dear Ms. Avery,

My name is Emily Hendrickson and I am the Associate Chief Nursing officer at Blessing Hospital, and have worked for the health system since 2000. I have been a member of the Adams County community since my birth in 1979. I also sit on the Adams County Ambulance Board. With each of these roles in mind, I respectfully, but strongly ask that the Health Facilities and Services Review Board oppose the CON application, 18-042.

In my current role, I work closely with the leadership, physician and staff of the Emergency Room. Our Emergency Department is a central hub of safety net resources for our entire region. As the building of this new surgery center will directly impact the revenue of our organization, these safety net services are at risk for lack of funding to provide for our region. We are a level II trauma center, and even receive Level I traumas because of our unique location within our region. We are a certified stroke and chest pain center. We have an entire regional STEMI network. We are currently training many emergency room and pediatric nurses to become certified Sexual Assault Nurse Examiners to support the Illinois Attorney General's program to provide a high level of care for victims of sexual abuse. Blessing will be a regional treatment center mandating call and overtime hours for these nurses to care for these patients.

In addition, our Emergency Room is a primary hub of mental health patient emergency visits. In 2012, Blessing Hospital built a 3 bed secure area within the Emergency Department to safely manage the needs of this population. Since that time, the ED mental health volume has increased from an average of 2.5 patients a day to almost 5 patients a day. Our inpatient mental health departments are frequently full, leaving these patients to overflow in the Emergency Room and often spend over 24 hours a day awaiting an inpatient bed. We are currently examining the need for future construction to allow for a larger secure area to meet the needs of mental health patients in the emergency room.

Each of the major safety net programs have little to no funding, yet we are required to have resources 24/7 to meet their needs. The loss of revenue cause by the Quincy Medical Group project will have a big impact on these necessary services.

As a community member & a previous Cardiac Cath Lab Director, duplication of cardiac services are going to increase costs to our community members. Patients will have no integrated electronic medical record. They will have 2 sets of cardiac cath diagnostic records, 2 sets of radiology films, and 2 sets of staff that risk different levels of competency and training. How is this the best thing for our patients when Healthcare services are supposed to put the patient at the center of the work we do?

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As a member of the Adams County Ambulance Board, I come forward with concerns that no communication or collaboration has occurred with the Adams County Ambulance team as to what this could do to the call volume or any impact at all. With an offsite Cardiac Cath lab, what happens with emergencies that need to be transferred to the hospital? Long distance transfers for patients that need a higher level of care are currently declined or need to be rescheduled, often, because of the routine needs of the Ambulance community. Adding another opportunity for emergency response has unknown effects to our community.

As a nursing administrator at Blessing Hospital, we put our patients first in all that we do, in fact, it is our system's aim. The duplication of these services, as defined in CON 18-042, lacks this consistent message for the members of our regional healthcare community. It is with this knowledge that I ask you to oppose this certificate of need.

Respectfully,

Emily Hendrickson, RN, MBA, Board Certified Nurse Executive

Associate Chief Nursing Officer

Blessing Hospital

Quincy, IL 62305

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Ms. Courtney R. Avery  
Administrator  
Illinois Health Facilities and Services Review Board  
528 West Jefferson, 2nd Floor  
Springfield, IL 62761

R. E. Opposition to CON 18-042, Quincy Medical Group  
Surgery Center in Quincy IL.

Dear Ms. Avery,

My name is David B. Loyl. I am a registered nurse and a leader in local healthcare in the community of Quincy. I have served this community in that capacity for nearly 10 years. My family and extended family all relocated to Quincy during that time. One of the main reasons was because of the healthcare services offered by Blessing Health System.

The CON before you would be a travesty if approved. To be clear, I am very opposed to the proposed CON. Blessing Hospital provides many services that have been discarded by hospitals in similar communities. This proposal by Quincy Medical Group would endanger many of these services. Psychiatric services, obstetrics, even cancer care has disappeared from similar communities in similar situations. The additional cost basis would simply not be sustainable with 40% of the revenue leaving Quincy and Illinois.

I close by respectfully asking that  
the request by Quincy Medical Group CON  
18-042 be denied. The future health of  
our community and my family are at stake.

Sincerely,

David B Loyd RN

1624 Jersey

Quincy IL 62301

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1/16/19

Ms. Courtney R. Avery  
Administrator  
Illinois Health Facilities and Services Review Board  
525 West Jefferson, 2nd Floor  
Springfield, Illinois 62761

Re: Opposition to CON 18-042, Quincy Medical Group  
Surgery Center in Quincy, Illinois

Dear Ms. Avery:

My name is Jan Knight, PhD(c), RN, CNF and I  
am the Academic Dean at Blessing-Riemer College  
of Nursing and Health Sciences (BRCHS), Quincy, Illinois.  
I would like to express my opposition to the CON  
18-042, Quincy Medical Group Surgery Center in  
Quincy, Illinois.

I am in objection to this CON because the  
Quincy community does not need a second surgery  
center which will have a serious impact on driving  
costs higher impacting businesses, families, and  
healthcare in this community. In addition, our  
College will be impacted through the amount of  
support we receive from Blessing Hospital to educate  
nursing and health science students. This ultimately  
impacts our community workforce as over 60% of  
our graduates stay here to work.

(2)

In closing, I respectfully ask that the Health Facilities and Services Review Board deny CON application 18-042 Quincy Medical Group Surgery Center in Quincy, Illinois. There is more to be lost than gained if this CON is approved.

Sincerely,  
Jan Knight

Jan Knight, PhD(c), RN, CNE

Academic Dean

Blessing-Riemann College of Nursing and Health

11th & Broadway, P.O. Box 7005 Sciences

Quincy, Illinois 62305-7005

217-228-5520, ext. 6907

jknightj@brn.edu

1/30/19

Ms. Courtney R. Avery  
Administrator  
Illinois Health Facilities and Services Review Board  
525 West Jefferson, 2<sup>nd</sup> Floor  
Springfield, IL 62761

**Re: Opposition to CON 18-042, Quincy Medical Group Surgery Center in Quincy, Illinois**

Dear Ms. Avery:

My name is Lisa Harker and I am the unit based educator and was previously a nurse on the inpatient psychiatric unit (APS) at Blessing Hospital. I have been with the organization for 8 years. I am in opposition to the Quincy Medical Group Surgery Center for the following reasons:

1. The QMG proposal is a duplication of services. Blessing and QMG already offer an outpatient surgery center on the QMG campus. Blessing owns the service and QMG manages it. This has been a successful arrangement for more than 10 years now. Blessing would have no role in the proposed center. A second outpatient surgery center is not needed.
2. Much of the revenue Blessing generates from outpatient surgery is used to fulfill its not-for-profit mission of providing Safety Net services to the region. These Safety Net services include behavioral health care and trauma care. The Institute of Medicine defines the health care safety net as those providers who organize and deliver a significant level of health care and other related services to uninsured, Medicaid, and other vulnerable populations. The health care safety net is vital to the health of our communities and Blessing is the only provider in the region who offers these critical services. Insurance reimbursement does not provide adequate support for the delivery of inpatient behavioral medicine and trauma care. Opening a second surgery center would result in a loss to the current surgery center of nearly 12,000 cases and revenue of \$25-\$41 million. A significant portion of that revenue is needed by the community to keep Safety Net services operational

Additionally, as a non-profit healthcare provider, Blessing provides financial support to the education of healthcare professionals (*Blessing-Rieman College of Nursing & Health Sciences and the SIU Family Medicine Residency Program, an award-winning program that provides specialty training to new family physicians*); and charity care to those in need of healthcare, regardless of their ability to pay. While these are not Safety Net services, these are important community benefit investments, programs that cannot

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sustain themselves financially and rely on Blessing's support. The loss of outpatient surgery revenue threatens these and other community benefit programs.

UnityPoint, Quincy Medical Group's Des Moines, Iowa-based business partner, would be a 40 percent owner of the proposed surgery center. Therefore, a portion of the profits from the proposed center will leave the Quincy area.

3. Opening of a second surgery center would cost jobs. Blessing could lose approximately 400 jobs – 12 percent of the employee body - through the loss of a significant portion of is outpatient surgery business.
4. What is in the communities' best interest is for Blessing and QMG to continue cooperation in the delivery of key services. It has been successful with the current outpatient surgery center and with the Cancer Center. Blessing wants to continue working with QMG, not be put in a position to work against them in improving the health of our communities.

I respectfully ask that the Health Facilities and Services Review Board deny CON application 18-042. Thank you for your consideration.

Respectfully,

Lisa A. Harker, BSN, RN  
Unit Based Educator  
Psychiatric services  
Blessing Hospital  
Quincy, IL.  
217-224-8400 ext- 4546

[Lisa.harker@blessinghealthsystem.org](mailto:Lisa.harker@blessinghealthsystem.org).

1/28/19

Ms Courtney R Avery  
Administrator  
Illinois Health Facilities & Services Board  
525 West Jefferson 2nd floor  
Springfield IL 62761

RE: Opposition to CON 18-042  
Quincy Medical Group Surgery Center  
in Quincy, IL

Dear Ms Avery  
My Name is Paula Wardlaw I am a Surgery  
Scheduler w/ Blessing Hospital. Been  
employed w/ Blessing for 12 years  
there are only 2 schedulers that  
do all scheduling of surgeries  
for GI & ORS at the Surgery  
Center of Quincy. We also do all  
scheduling for Blessing OR.

I oppose the above CON project.  
This will have direct impact on  
myself & many other staff as  
any outpatient @ current ASC  
+ BH street would become QMC.  
I will not be able to receive current  
benefits or pay rate at QMC.

I strongly & respectfully ask that you

oppose & deny con application  
18-042.

Thank you for your consideration

As As 1 of the 2 schedulers that  
schedule the GI & OR cases  
at Surgery Center. There are  
many days that they are not  
at max for cases scheduled  
meaning there is open time  
where cases could be scheduled.  
I have done all this scheduling  
for the entire 12 yrs as an  
employee of Blessing for 12 yrs.

Sincerely

Paula Wardlow

Paula Wardlow  
Registration/Scheduling Registration  
Surgical Services  
Blessing Hospital.

Ms. Courtney R. Avery  
Administrative  
Illinois Health Facilities + Services Review Board  
525 West Jefferson, 2nd floor  
Springfield, IL 62761

Dear Ms. Avery:

My name is Rosemary Parker. I am an RN; employed as a Perianesthesia Nurse at Blessing Hospital. I truly oppose CON 18-042 project.

My objection is based on the project is a duplication of services. Blessing Hospital and Qmg currently offer an outpatient surgery center on the Qmg campus. Blessing owns the service and Qmg manages it. This successful arrangement has worked for more than 10 years. Blessing will have no role in the proposed center. A second outpatient surgery center is NOT needed.

This proposed center will damage the Safety Net and Community benefit programs and services. These services include behavioral health care + trauma care. The health care safety net is vital to the health of our communities; + Blessing is the only provider in the region who offers these critical services. Opening a second surgery center would result in a loss to the current surgery.

center of nearly 12,000 cases + revenue of \$25-41 million.  
A large portion of that revenue is needed by the community to keep Safety Net services operational.

As a non-profit healthcare provider, Blessing provides financial support to the education of healthcare professionals (Blessing-Riemer College of Nursing + Health Sciences + the Sir Family Residency Program); and charity care to those in need of healthcare, regardless of their ability to pay.

Unity Fund, QMG's Des Moines, Iowa based business partner would be a 40 percent owner of the proposed surgery center will leave the Quincy area.

Opening of a 2nd surgery center would cost jobs. Blessing could lose approximately 400 jobs - 12 percent of the employee body. One of those jobs could possibly be mine.

The community deserves cooperation between Blessing and QMG in order to deliver key services. This cooperation has been successful with the current outpatient surgery center and with the Cancer Center. Blessing wants to continue working with QMG; not be put in a position to work against them in improving the health of our communities.

I respectfully ask that the Health  
Facilities and Services Review Board  
deny CON application 18-042.

Sincerely

Rosemary Barker RN

1/29/19  
Ms. Courtney R. Query, Administrator  
Ottawa Health Facilities and Services Review Board  
625 West Jefferson, 2nd Floor  
Springfield, IL 62761

Re: Opposition to COS 18-042, Quincy Medical  
Group Surgery Center in Quincy Illinois

Dear Ms. Query:

My name is Stacy Davis. I have been  
a resident of Quincy, Illinois and Adams County  
for 53 years as well as an employee  
of Blessing Hospital for 13 1/2 years. 10 of which  
I have been a Certified Medical Coder for the  
Cardiac Catheterization lab located in Blessing  
Hospital.

It is my understanding that the  
proposed Quincy Medical Group Surgery Center  
will have a diagnostic cardiac catheterization  
lab located in it. As a medical coder  
I see how well the Quincy Medical Group  
Cardiologist and Blessing Physician Services  
Cardiologists, interventional cardiologists and  
cardiothoracic surgeon works together for  
the best outcome for their patients. I  
personally can not see how the lack of  
cardiac surgical support is in the best  
interest of the patient medically or financially.

As with many procedures there are risks and complications such as bleeding from the access site, reactions to contrast, perforation of blood vessels, infections and much worse. Without the cardiac support systems in place it is very concerning not to mention if these patients need stents or other services it will require additional punctures and duplication of cost and risks.

I respectfully ask that the Health Facilities and Services Review board deny Quincy Medical Groups COV Application 18-042. Thank you for giving me the opportunity to voice my concerns and opposition.

Respectfully,

Harry Davis



Jan 28 2019

Ms Courtney R. Avery

Administrator

Illinois Health Facilities & Services Review BOARD

525 West Jefferson 2<sup>nd</sup> Floor

Springfield Ill. 62761

RE: OPPOSITION to Con 18-042

Quincy Medical Group

Surgery Center

Quincy Ill

Dear Ms Avery

My name is Ann Reich RN at Blessing  
Hospital Surgical Services - I am  
opposed to this project

The surgical services currently are  
under utilized at the Blessing  
Surgery Center now - we have time  
available for more surgical cases.

I respectfully ask that the Health Facilities  
& Service Review Board deny Con Application  
18-042 -

Thank you for your consideration

Sincerely

Ann Reich

Ann Reich

1-16-19

Ms. Courtney Avery  
Administrator

Illinois Health Facilities Review Board

525 W. Jefferson, 2nd Floor

Springfield, Ill. 62761

Re: Opposition to CON 18-042 Quincy Medical Group, Quincy, Ill.

Dear Ms. Avery,

My name is Kathy Hull and I am CEO of Illini Community Hospital in Pittsfield, Ill. I have deep concerns about the potential duplication of services that would take place if the Quincy Medical Group Surgical Center would be allowed to go forward. I believe that this service duplication will cause overall loss of revenue and ultimately services to our communities.

Blessing Health System has partnered with QMG for many years to provide a surgical center in Quincy, Ill. I don't understand how moving to an additional location could possibly improve quality - since QMG provides the operations in the current center. I also don't understand how quality would change based on the fact that QMG leads the surgical program now. Same providers, same leadership but in a different location doesn't equate to a better quality set up. I also fear the potential loss of revenue to the Blessing Health System would put essential safety net services - like mental health services - in peril.

I respectfully ask that the Health Facilities & Services Review Board deny the CON application 18-042 for Quincy Medical Group Surgical Center.

I ask that you look at all of the impacts this center could make on the community and the robust services already offered by the Blessing Health System. Competition in healthcare - a highly regulated industry - does not drive down the cost of care. This will simply add more cost overall to the community.

Respectfully,

Kathy Hull

Kathy Hull

January 10<sup>th</sup>, 2019

Ms. Courtney Avery, Administrator  
Illinois Health Facilities & Services Review Board  
525 W. Jefferson, 2<sup>nd</sup> Floor  
Springfield, IL 62761

Re: Opposition to CAN 18-042  
Quincy Medical Group Surgery Center  
Quincy, IL

Dear Ms. Avery,

My name is Rana Boudabs and I serve as  
HIM Supervisor and Privacy Officer for an  
entity owned and operated by Blessing  
Health System in Quincy, IL. I oppose  
the granting of a Certificate of Need for  
the aforementioned project.

I object to this project based on the  
impact this project will have on  
the communities we serve. The addition  
of another such service that is not  
warranted in our community based  
on current volumes only increases  
cost to the members of our community →

and stresses the ability of our health system to provide all the needed services.

I respectfully ask that the Health Facilities and Services Review Board deny CON application 18-042.

Thank you for your consideration.

~~I am a publicist #PITT, CHPS~~  
Hillman & Privacy Officer  
Bessing Corporate Services

1-17-19

Ms. Courtney R. Avery  
Administrator

Illinois Health Facilities and Service Review Board  
525 W. Jefferson, 3<sup>rd</sup> Floor  
Springfield, IL 62761

Re: Opposition to CON 18-042, Quincy Med Group Surgery  
Center in Quincy, Illinois

Dear Ms. Avery:

I am a licensed Respiratory Therapist working in the area in and around Quincy, IL. My family and I receive our health care in Blessing Health System and at Quincy Medical Group. I am opposed to the above state CON due to the fact that it will put a severe strain on the healthcare community.

I believe this will not be cost effective for any healthcare providers in the area. We already have staffing shortages in most of our licensed healthcare positions. Approval of this CON will result in further shortages in staffing in our communities. The result of extending these shortages will be a decrease in the quality of care. I further believe this will prove to be cost prohibitive, as well. There will not be any new revenue generated if the CON is approved.

→

page 2

I respectfully ask that the Health Facilities and Services Review Board deny CON application 18-042—Quincy Medical Group Surgery Center. This will be a duplication of services that are not being utilized fully.

Respectfully,

Julia L. Morarend, LRCP  
Julia L. Morarend



January 17, 2019

Ms Courtney R Avery  
Administrator

Illinois Health Facilities and Service Review Board  
525 W Jefferson, 3rd Floor  
Springfield, IL 62761

Re: Opposition to CON 18-042, Quincy Medical Group  
Surgery Center in Quincy, Illinois

Dear Ms. Avery:

My name is Suzen Long and I am the Vice President  
of Finance for Denmon Services, Inc., which is an  
affiliated entity of the Blessing Health System in  
Quincy, IL. I am writing in opposition to  
the CON # 18-042 submitted by Quincy Medical  
Group for a Surgery Center in Quincy, Illinois.

Opening this surgery center will lead to  
a duplication of services in the community, which  
only increases costs of providing healthcare.  
The population in Quincy and Adams County is  
not growing, it is declining, so why do we need  
a duplication of services. If this is done and it  
is not successful, what does this community do?  
We will lose doctors which will just erode the  
quality of care in our community. Access will  
become an issue.

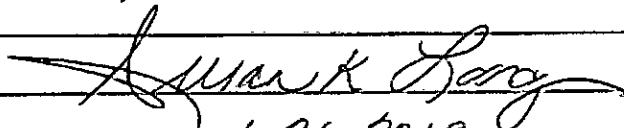
this proposed Surgery Center will be owned  
40% by owners from out of town. They are  
from Iowa, therefore 40% of the profit  
will leave our community and the State of  
Illinois.

The Blessing Health System provided  
over \$60 million in community benefit dollars last  
year in comparison to the less than \$50,000  
provided by Quincy Medical Group.

I do not believe that this is in the  
best interest of this community, nor either of  
the health systems involved.

I respectfully ask that the Health Facilities and  
Review Board deny CEN application 18-042  
requested by Quincy Medical Group.

Respectfully submitted,

  
1-21-2019

January 25, 2019

Ms. Courtney R. Avery  
Administrator  
Illinois Health Facilities and Services Review Board  
525 West Jefferson, 2<sup>nd</sup> Floor  
Springfield, IL 62761

**Re: Opposition to CON 18-042, Quincy Medical Group Surgery Center in Quincy, Illinois**

Dear Ms. Avery:

As an employee of Blessing Hospital, I strenuously OPPOSE Quincy Medical Group's Surgery Center proposal for the following reasons:

- It is a duplication of services
- It will be damaging to the community benefit programs and services currently offered by Blessing Health System
- It will result in significant job loss at Blessing Health System, the area's largest employer
- The community deserves cooperation between Blessing Health System and Quincy Medical Group

I respectfully ask that the Health Facilities and Services Review Board deny CON application 18-042 by Quincy Medical Group Surgery Center. Thank you for your consideration.

Respectfully,

Gina Rennols

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Gina Rennols". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style with a large, prominent "G" and "R".

1/29/2019

Ms. Courtney R. Avery  
Administrator  
Illinois Health Facilities and Services Review Board  
525 West Jefferson, 2<sup>nd</sup> Floor  
Springfield, IL 62761

**Re: Opposition to CON 18-042, Quincy Medical Group Surgery Center in Quincy, Illinois**

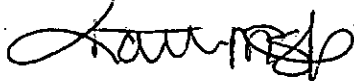
Dear Ms. Avery:

I am Katie Mast and I am a Blessing Hospital certified Pharmacy tech. I have worked at Blessing Hospital for 3 years.

Adding another surgery center is duplication of resources because Blessing Hospital already works with QMG at the current surgery center at 11<sup>th</sup> and Hampshire Street in Quincy, IL. Blessing and QMG have worked together over 10 years to provide excellent service at the current surgery center. The current surgery center is not operating at full capacity so adding another surgery center does not make sense. The money generated from the current surgery center helps the community significantly. Taking the revenue generated from a non-for-profit organization and giving it to a for-profit organization will result in less community support, which will harm the community. The money will leave the community and will especially harm behavioral health care and trauma care. Hundreds of jobs will be lost at Blessing Hospital by adding another surgery center. This will lead to additional unnecessary healthcare expenses.

I respectfully ask that the Health Facilities and Services Review Board deny CON application 18-042. Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Katie Mast', with a stylized flourish at the end.

Katie Mast, certified pharmacy tech

January 23<sup>rd</sup>, 2019

Administrator Courtney Avery  
Illinois Health Facilities & Services Review Board  
525 West Jefferson Street, Second Floor  
Springfield, IL 62761

Dear Ms. Avery:

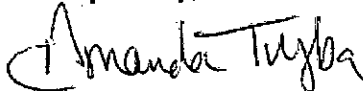
I serve as the Director of Inpatient Psychiatric Nursing Services at Blessing Hospital, with nursing oversight of the three inpatient behavioral health units. I have worked in behavioral health for over seven years as a Registered Nurse in rural communities.

Our inpatient behavioral health services are provided to patients of our community, and to surrounding areas where there is very limited access to mental health care. We are one of the few remaining inpatient facilities that serve our rural community population within a 100-mile radius, and one of the only facilities who offer inpatient treatment for children and adolescents between the University of Iowa in Iowa City, Iowa and Lincoln Prairie in Springfield, Illinois. Blessing Hospital recognizes the importance of the services we provide and has a devoted mission to our community and surrounding areas to continue to provide this necessary care while we try to overcome the national mental health crisis evident in our society today.

Nearly 45,000 Americans age 10 or older died by suicide in 2016. Suicide is the 10<sup>th</sup> leading cause of death and is one of just three leading causes that are on the rise according to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC). These statistics are alarming, and it is tragic that families and communities across the country suffer from this loss daily because we, as a nation, are not doing our part to address the mental health crisis. It is evident that we cannot continue to allow closures of behavioral health facilities when our people drastically need our help. Our community needs the services that Blessing Inpatient Behavioral Health offers, this is evident by our estimated 90% occupancy of our adult inpatient units and continued rise in census on our adolescent unit. The patient population that Blessing Inpatient Behavioral Health serves will likely worsen significantly if we further constrain their resources to access of mental health care.

In an effort to minimize the duplication of services, and maintain our ability to provide behavioral health services in our community, I ask the board to deny this request.

Respectfully,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Amanda Tryba".

Amanda Tryba RN, BSN  
Director of Nursing, Psychiatric Services

1/29/2019

Ms. Courtney R. Avery  
Administrator  
Illinois Health Facilities and Services Review Board  
525 West Jefferson, 2<sup>nd</sup> Floor  
Springfield, IL 62761

**Re: Opposition to CON 18-042, Quincy Medical Group Surgery Center in Quincy, Illinois**

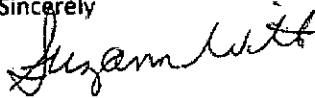
Dear Ms. Avery:

I am Suzann Witt and I am a Blessing Hospital Certified Pharmacy Technician. I have worked at Blessing Hospital for over 38 years. I oppose the CON 18-042, QMG surgery center in Quincy, IL.

Adding another surgery center is duplication of resources because Blessing Hospital already works with QMG at the current surgery center at 11<sup>th</sup> and Hampshire Street in Quincy, IL. Blessing and QMG have worked together over 10 years to provide excellent service at the current surgery center. The current surgery center is not operating at full capacity so adding another surgery center does not make sense. The money generated from the current surgery center helps the community significantly. Taking the revenue generated from a non-for-profit organization and giving it to a for-profit organization will result in less community support, which will harm the community. The money will leave the community and will especially harm behavioral health care and trauma care. Hundreds of jobs will be lost at Blessing Hospital by adding another surgery center. This will lead to additional unnecessary healthcare expenses.

I respectfully ask that the Health Facilities and Services Review Board deny CON application 18-042. Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Suzann Witt".

Suzann Witt, CPhT

Cassandra Hartman Moya  
1405 Oak Street  
Quincy, IL 62301  
217.209.4316  
[cassandramoya@gmail.com](mailto:cassandramoya@gmail.com)

January 25, 2019

Ms. Courtney R. Avery,  
Administrator  
Illinois Health Facilities and Services Review Board  
525 West Jefferson, 2<sup>nd</sup> Floor  
Springfield, IL 62761

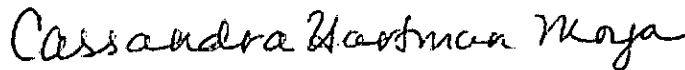
**Re: Opposition to CON 18-042, Quincy Medical Group Surgery Center in Quincy, Illinois**

Dear Ms. Avery:

My name is Cassandra Hartman Moya; I am a Blessing Hospital employee and a resident of Quincy, Illinois. I strenuously OPPOSE a new surgery center by Quincy Medical Group. The Quincy Medical Group has not shown a compelling need for this surgery center, and the loss of Blessing jobs (the area's largest employer) and the probable decrease in Blessing's charity health care, would be devastating for our community.

I respectfully ask that the Health Facilities and Services Review Board deny CON application 18-042 for a Quincy Medical Group Surgery Center. Thank you for your consideration.

Respectfully,



Cassandra Hartman Moya

Monday, January 28, 2019

Ms. Courtney R. Avery  
Administrator  
Illinois Health Facilities and Services Review Board  
525 West Jefferson, 2<sup>nd</sup> Floor  
Springfield, IL 62761

**Re: Opposition to CON 18-042, Quincy Medical Group Surgery Center in Quincy, Illinois**

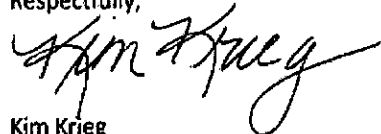
Dear Ms. Avery:

My name is Kim Krieg and I have been employed by Blessing Health System for 19 years. I am a Clinic Office Manager for Blessing at Hamilton Warsaw Clinic, Warsaw, Illinois. I have had many interactions with Quincy Medical Group throughout these 19 years and have found both entities to be very professional and patient oriented. I wish to state that I am opposed to the QMG proposal for a new surgery center due to the fact that this would be a duplication of services offered in the area. It is my understanding that the current surgery center does not operate at full capacity. There are many options for QMG to be able to utilize the current set up at much lower costs prior to establishing a completely new and separate service at the cost of 20 plus million dollars. I also understand that Unity Point, an out of state firm, would be a 40 percent owner of the proposed surgery center as QMG's business partner. This would mean that a portion of the profits would leave the Quincy area and not benefit the community at the level indicated by QMG.

I believe that Blessing and QMG should work together for the benefit of the community and continue to offer their services at the current surgical center. QMG built this and was unable to operate it without asking for partnership with Blessing in 2009. These key services are beneficial to the entire community. I have had the need to utilize the current surgery center and found everything to be excellent in building condition, services, staffing, and experience. I have always maintained if something is not broken, why try to fix it? The current surgery center is well established, well maintained, well-staffed and well known.

I respectfully ask that the Health Facilities and Services Review Board deny CON application 18-042 as proposed by Quincy Medical Group. Perhaps in the future there may be a need to for something like this, however at the current time I strongly feel it would be a definite duplication of services offered to our community. I thank you for your consideration of this request.

Respectfully,



Kim Krieg  
Clinic Office Manager  
Hamilton Warsaw Clinic  
Warsaw, IL 62379



01/24/2019

Ms. Courtney R. Avery  
Administrator  
Illinois Health Facilities and Services Review Board  
525 West Jefferson, 2<sup>nd</sup> Floor  
Springfield, IL 62761

**Re: Opposition to CON 18-042, Quincy Medical Group Surgery Center in Quincy, Illinois**

Dear Ms. Avery:

Let me introduce myself, my name is RaChella Brookhart a current employee of Blessing Health Systems, and I am in complete opposition to CON 18-042, Quincy Medical Group Surgery Center in Quincy, IL.

There are several reasons why I personally feel this duplicated service would be an injustice to the Quincy and surrounding area. First and foremost Duplication of efforts, QMG and Blessing already offer an outpatient surgery center on the QMG campus which has been successful for more than 10 years, with the new facility Blessing would have no role in the proposed center. Secondly let's discuss the damage to the safety net and community benefit programs that the currently revenue that is generated from the current Blessing outpatient surgery revenue. The loss of the outpatient revenue threatens these and other community benefit programs. Finally and quite possibly the most important there is sure to be a significant Job Loss with the opening of the second surgery center. Blessing could lose approximately 400 jobs which is 12 percent of the employee body.

Let's please keep in mind what is actually in the communities best interest wouldn't that be continued cooperation between QMG, and Blessing, doesn't the communities deserve that? Blessing wants nothing more than to continue working with QMG, and not be put into a position to work against them in patient care.

I respectfully ask that the Health Facilities and Services Review Board deny CON application 18-042.  
Thank you for your consideration.

Respectfully,



RaChella Brookhart

January 30, 2019

Ms. Courtney R. Avery  
Administrator  
Illinois Health Facilities and Services Review Board  
525 West Jefferson 2<sup>nd</sup> Floor  
Springfield, IL 62761

**Re: Opposition to CON 18-042, Quincy Medical Group Surgery Center in Quincy, Illinois**

Dear Ms. Avery,

My name is Ashley Shaffer, I have lived in Quincy my entire life and have worked in various positions in health care since 2003. I am a proud Registered Nurse, and passionate nurse leader. I am writing you as a healthcare provider and consumer in opposition of CON 18-042, QMG Surgery Center.

I feel as though I am an advocate for people who may not understand the impact the surgery center could impose on our community. Some people think competition will drive lower costs. I disagree. Our current surgery center in Quincy Illinois is only used at about 50% capacity. Adding another surgery center will eventually be at the expense of consumers, they are the ones that will have to absorb the cost of having empty operating rooms. I am in opposition also because of the threat to the safety net services Blessing Health System provides to our community. I am proud that we offer mental health services for our surrounding region, these services are supported by revenue generated from the surgery center. I feel like a healthy collaboration between Quincy Medical Group and Blessing Health System is what is best for the patients in our community, not adding a surgery center. I feel it is best to keep the consumers of healthcare at the front of the decision in regards to CON 18-042 and oppose.

I respectfully ask that the Health Facilities and Services Review Board deny CON application 18-042. Thank you for your attention and consideration.

Sincerely,

 Ashley Shaffer RN  
Ashley Shaffer

January 25, 2019

Ms. Courtney R. Avery  
Administrator  
Illinois Health Facilities and Services Review Board  
525 West Jefferson, 2<sup>nd</sup> Floor  
Springfield, IL 62761

**Re: Opposition to CON 18-042, Quincy Medical Group Surgery Center in Quincy, Illinois**

Dear Ms. Avery:

My name is Susan Lee and I am a 30 year employee of Blessing Hospital. I have many concerns if the proposed Quincy Medical Group Surgery Center is approved, therefore am opposing their request.

As anyone involved in Healthcare knows, the future viability of healthcare organizations rely on outpatient visits and procedures. The current volumes of these types of procedures does not merit two outpatient surgery centers. This may change in the future but at this time having two centers at less than half capacity is a no win situation for either Blessing Hospital or Quincy Medical Group. The better solution is for Blessing Hospital and Quincy Medical Group to work as a team and expand the hours of the current surgery center when the need arises and they can no longer meet the needs of Quincy and the surrounding communities with the current offering.

The current surgery center owned by Blessing operates at the Quincy Medical Group facility and managed by the Quincy Medical Group Director and Medical Director. With the building being the Medical Group's there is no signage stating that this is owned and operated by Blessing Hospital on the exterior of the building. There is a large misconception in the community that this belongs to Quincy Medical Group and would just move to the new location. To the majority of the community, there would still be one surgery center, located at the Quincy Mall.

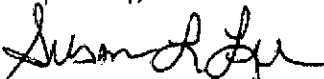
During the fiscal year of 2018, Blessing Hospital as a not-for-profit organization, provided \$63 million in community benefit. Over \$10 million of free or reduced care was provided to the community patients who had no means to gain healthcare without Blessing's charity. The less revenue that Blessing generates, the less community benefit it will be able to provide.

Quincy Medical Group does not provide charity care. There are countless examples where they have refused to treat Medicaid patients and direct them to Blessing Hospital's emergency room, where the cost to care for these patients is much greater than in an office setting. Quincy Medical Group appears to only be concerned about the cost savings of healthcare to the community, if they are a beneficiary.

The bottom line is that if Blessing Hospital and Quincy Medical Group are to not only survive but thrive in this day and age, they must come together as a team and figure out how to work together to provide all healthcare services needed for our community. In most business, healthy competition is good. In healthcare it can be deadly. Blessing Hospital needs Quincy Medical Group and Quincy Medical Group needs Blessing Hospital to remain viable in healthcare today.

I respectfully ask that the Health Facilities and Services Review Board deny CON application 18-042. Thank you for your consideration.

Respectfully,

  
Susan L Lee

January 28, 2019

Ms Courtney R Arvey, Administrator  
Illinois Health Facilities & Services Review Board  
525 West Jefferson, 2nd Floor  
Springfield, IL 62761

RE: Opposition to CON 18-042, Quincy  
Medical Group Surgery Center in Quincy, IL

Dear Ms Arvey:

I work in the HIM Department at  
Blessing Health Systems. I am opposed  
to the above-referenced CON project.

I feel that for the good of our  
community that Quincy Medical Group  
and Blessing should work together as  
they have in the past to maintain and  
further develop the current Surgery  
Center that is located at Quincy  
Medical Group. I feel that there  
is not a need in our community for  
duplicating these services.

I respectfully ask that the Health  
Facilities Review Board deny CON application  
18-042. Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

Pamela A White

Pamela S. White

January 30, 2019

Ms. Courtney R. Avey  
Administrator

Illinois Health Facilities + Service Review Board  
535 W. Jefferson, 2nd floor  
Springfield, IL 62761

Re: opposition to Con-18-042, AMC Surgery Center,  
in Quincy, IL.

Dear Ms. Avey,

My name is Sheryl Sullivan. I have been a Registered Nurse at Blessing Hospital for almost 42 years. I firmly oppose the approval of Con-18-042, Quincy Medical Group Surgery Center.

Quincy already has a fully operational center that meets the needs of the community. In fact, only 52% of the center is utilized today. A 2nd center would present a duplication of services, not needed.

The current surgery center assists in providing safety net services. Without the revenue, the Trauma center + Behavioral Health Center would be in jeopardy.

Blessing also provides financial assistance to the Family Residency + Blessing Breman College of nursing programs with this revenue. The loss of these monies threatens these + other benefit programs.

A 2nd surgery center would put approx 400 Blessing jobs at risk, a lot of lost employment in a community the size of Quincy.

Lastly, Unity Point, AMCS Iowa based partner, would be 40% owner. I believe profits from Illinois will go to Iowa. Illinois needs to keep our Revenue in the state of Illinois.

I respectfully ask that the HFSAB deny Con application 18-042. Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,  
Sheryl Sullivan  
Sheryl Sullivan

1-30-19

Ms. Courtney R. Avery  
Administrator  
Illinois Health Facilities and Services Review Board  
525 West Jefferson, 2<sup>nd</sup> Floor  
Springfield, IL 62761

Re: Opposition to CON 18-042 Quincy Medical  
Group Surgery Center in Quincy, IL

Dear Ms. Avery:

I am an LPN in Surgical Services at Blessing Hospital in Quincy, IL and I am opposed to the Quincy Medical Group Surgery Center, CON 18-042.

I am opposed to this project because of the duplication of services that it would cause and the loss jobs to Blessing Hospital which in turn will hurt the community. I believe that the community deserves two health care organizations that work together to provide the best healthcare possible.

I respectfully ask that the Health Facilities and Services Review Board deny the CON application for Quincy Medical Group Surgery Center. Thank you for your consideration.

Respectfully,  
Krista White  
Krista White

January 30, 2019

Ms. Courtney Avery

Administrator

Illinois Health Facilities and Services Review Board

525 West Jefferson, 2nd floor.

Springfield, IL 62761

Re: Opposition to CON 18-042

Quincy Medical Group Surgery Center  
in Quincy IL

Dear Ms. Avery,

My name is Cathy Hunt and I am an LPA working in the Surgical Services Dept. at Blessing Hospital. I have been employed at Blessing Hospital for 38 yrs.

I strongly oppose CON application 18-042 Quincy Medical Group Surgery Center due to a duplication of services and loss of jobs in Quincy Illinois.

I respectfully ask that you deny CON-Application 18-042 Quincy Medical Group Surgery Center. Thank you for your consideration!

Sincerely yours -  
Cathy Hunt, LPA

1/29/19

Ms. Courtney R. Avery  
Administration

Illinois Health Facilities & Services Review Board

525 West Jefferson, 2nd Floor

Springfield, Ill 62761

RE: Opposition to CN18-042, QMG Surgery Center in Quincy, Ill  
Dear Ms. Avery:

My name is Sherrie Emerick and I have worked at Blessing Hospital for 34 years. I feel the QMG proposal is a duplication of services & a second OP surgery center is not needed, especially since its not being used at a 100% capacity. The way it is now has been a successful arrangement for over ten years.

A lot of the revenue Blessing generates from OP surgery is used for its non-for-profit mission of providing safety net services to the region, which includes trauma and behavioral health care. This is vital to the health of our communities and Blessing is the only provider in the region who offers these critical services. The community deserves cooperation and its best interest is for Blessing & QMG to continue cooperation in the delivery of key services.

I respectfully ask that the Health Care Facilities and Services Review Board deny Quincy Medical Group Surgery Center. Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

Sherrie Emerick CST



Ms. Courtney R. Avery

Administrator

Illinois Health Facilities & Services Review Board

525 West Jefferson, 2nd Floor

Spfld. IL 62761

Re: Opposition to CON 18-042, Quincy Medical Group  
Surgery Center in Quincy, Illinois.

Dear Ms. Avery;

My name is Karen Nieders RN, BSN in the Surgical Services department at Blessing Hospital. I have been a nurse at Blessing Hospital for 36 1/2 yrs. I oppose this due to impact it will have on the hospital as well as the community. Surgery service helps to fund our trauma area, mental health area and the surrounding area in need of financial assistance for their health needs. I feel this is a duplication of services for this area. I also feel safety would be an issue due to location Quincy Medical is building from emergency service when a complication occurs. I feel this will be a stress in our community area for our ambulance service. Blessing has always been extremely generous in helping the surrounding community. I also have concern over the 400 jobs that is anticipated to be lost at Blessing if this happens. I take pride that I work at Blessing and do not want to lose my job.

I respectfully ask that the Health Facilities and Services Review Board deny CON application 18-042 by Quincy Medical Group Surgery Center. Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

Karen Nieders RN, BSN

1/30/2019

Ms. Courtney R. Avery  
Administrator  
Illinois Health Facilities and Services Review Board  
525 West Jefferson, 2<sup>nd</sup> Floor  
Springfield, IL 62761

**Re: Opposition to CON 18-042, Quincy Medical Group Surgery Center in Quincy, Illinois**

Dear Ms. Avery:

I am Tatjana Tonic and I am a Blessing Hospital Pharmacy tech. I have worked at Blessing Hospital for over 3 years now. I oppose the CON 18-042, QMG surgery center in Quincy, IL.

Adding another surgery center is duplication of resources because Blessing Hospital already works with QMG at the current surgery center at 11<sup>th</sup> and Hampshire Street in Quincy, IL. Blessing and QMG have worked together over 10 years to provide excellent service at the current surgery center. The current surgery center is not operating at full capacity so adding another surgery center does not make sense. The money generated from the current surgery center helps the community significantly. Taking the revenue generated from a non-for-profit organization and giving it to a for-profit organization will result in less community support, which will harm the community. The money will leave the community and will especially harm behavioral health care and trauma care. Hundreds of jobs will be lost at Blessing Hospital by adding another surgery center. This will lead to additional unnecessary healthcare expenses.

I respectfully ask that the Health Facilities and Services Review Board deny CON application 18-042. Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Tatjana Tonic', with a stylized flourish at the end.

Tatjana Tonic

January 30, 2019

Ms. Courtney R. Avery  
Administrator  
Illinois Health Facilities and Services Review Board  
525 West Jefferson, 2<sup>nd</sup> Floor  
Springfield, IL 62761

**Re: Opposition to CON 18-042, Quincy Medical Group Surgery Center in Quincy, Illinois**


Dear Ms. Avery:

I am an employee of Blessing Hospital and have worked for this organization for several years. I have utilized services when needed at QMG but always prefer Blessing first as they are willing to work with patients and the prices are appropriate. This past year I was balance billed for a wellness visit that I kept because I had a great rapport with the physician at QMG and wanted to continue to see that provider but then received a bill for the balanced portion. It was nice that QMG did agree to work with Blessing and get this issue solved but it was only after several dissatisfied employees brought it to their attention.

This surgical site is clearly something that is not needed in this small rural community. I have concerns about the logistics of transporting someone that has an unexpected event happen during surgery when this facility is not very close to the actual hospital. It also concerns me that QMG hadn't contacted the ambulance service prior to submitting this as it makes me wonder if they really have thought this project through. I would much rather pick Blessing Hospital to have a cardiac catheter procedure done and have the hospital be on-site. These surgeries are high risk and I will add that as an employee here we often hear Code Blue in the cardiac catheter lab. I wouldn't want myself or any person that I cared about being miles from a hospital and having that kind of procedure.

I also have concerns for the community as well as the work family at Blessing. It is devastating to think that 400 employees may lose their jobs because of this proposed business idea. The current surgical center has been co-existing with Blessing and is successful. Additionally, as a non-profit healthcare provider, Blessing provides financial support to the education of healthcare professionals and charity care to those in need of healthcare, regardless of their ability to pay. While these are not Safety Net services, these are important community benefit investments, programs that cannot sustain themselves financially and rely on Blessing's support. The loss of outpatient surgery revenue threatens these and other community benefit programs. UnityPoint, Quincy Medical Group's Des Moines, Iowa-based business partner, would be a 40 percent owner of the proposed surgery center. Therefore, a portion of the profits from the proposed center will leave the Quincy area. Our area needs to keep the revenue in our great community and Blessing does a great job of doing this.

I respectfully ask that the Health Facilities and Services Review Board deny CON application 18-042. Thank you for your consideration.

Respectfully,  
  
Tracy Frese, PT, DPT

1/31/19

Ms. Courtney R. Avery  
Administrator  
Illinois Health Facilities and Services Review Board  
525 West Jefferson, 2<sup>nd</sup> Floor  
Springfield, IL 62761

Re: Opposition to CON 18-042, Quincy, Medical Group Surgery Center, Quincy, IL

Dear Ms. Avery,

As a member of the Quincy community as well as an employee of Blessing Health System, I am writing to express my objection to the duplication of services that would result from this project proposed by Quincy Medical Group.

Blessing Health System and QMG already offer an outpatient surgery center on the QMG campus. It has been a collaborative effort by both entities for more than 10 years. In our small community, this collaborative partnership has resulted in patient focused services and positive patient outcomes. A second surgery center will only create division between the two entities as well as division of healthcare services to patients.

To consider the best interest of the community, Quincy Medical Group and Blessing Health System need to continue to work together to deliver key health services to the community. The proposal of a second surgery center in which Blessing's involvement was not invited, threatens this existing collaborative relationship. This in turn will create divisive gaps in healthcare through which the most vulnerable patients fall.

I respectfully ask the Health Facilities and Services Review Board deny CON application 18-042. Thank you for your consideration.

Respectfully submitted,



Sue Plonka

February 1, 2019

Ms. Courtney R. Avery  
Administrator  
Illinois Health Facilities and Services Review Board  
525 West Jefferson, 2<sup>nd</sup> Floor  
Springfield, IL 62761

**Re: Opposition to CON 18-042, Quincy Medical Group Surgery Center in Quincy, Illinois**

Dear Ms. Avery:

As a citizen of the Quincy, Illinois community and an employee of Blessing Health System, I am writing this letter to state my opposition to CON 18-042.

The hospital's mission, "To improve the health of our communities" is a broad responsibility that has a huge impact on our tri-state region every day. Many of Blessing's services are not adequately supported with insurance reimbursements and, being the only provider, Blessing must spread revenue to cover these. It will be an incredible loss to our community if Blessing loses significant revenue and must minimize safety net services such as mental health. Blessing also has a huge impact on providing physicians and nurses to our region through financial support of Blessing-Rieman College of Nursing & Health Sciences and the SIU Family Medicine Residency Program. I am personally impacted by this since my daughter, who will soon take her exam to become an R.N., plans to remain in the area and work for Blessing since she can get tuition loans reimbursed.

I believe Blessing Hospital, QMG, and our community are all best served if Blessing and QMG cooperate in the delivery of key services. Blessing spends millions of dollars on our linear accelerator, for example, so how will two in our community be beneficial? Instead of duplication of services, money should be spent to start services not currently offered, which would promote Quincy as a regional health center.

I respectfully ask that the Health Facilities and Services Review Board deny CON application 18-042. Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Wanda Dix", written over a horizontal line.

Wanda Dix  
2103 Aldo Blvd  
Quincy, Illinois

January 31, 2019

Ms. Courtney R. Avery  
Administrator  
Illinois Health Facilities and Services Review Board  
525 West Jefferson, 2<sup>nd</sup> Floor  
Springfield, IL 62761

Re: Opposition to CON 18-042, Quincy Medical Group Surgery Center in Quincy, Illinois

Dear Ms. Avery:

My name is Elaine Lochman and I have been an Administrative Assistant for Blessing Hospital for the past thirty-eight years. I love working at Blessing Hospital because we are like a family. Not only does Blessing provide great care to the patients we serve but also gives back to the community through numerous programs that we fund. This helps provide services to those who cannot afford them. Blessing also helps the employees that work here that are in need. We have an employee crisis fund and we also have a Christmas drive for children of employees if the employee cannot provide Christmas gifts due to hardships. The employees all come together to donate money to help purchase these gifts anonymously. We are an organization that seeks to provide the best care, services and programs possible for the community and to exceed expectations for those it serves.

Over the past few years, Behavioral Health services across our country have been negatively impacted due to budget cuts, which makes seeking care more difficult. Whether this be through decreases in available services, or lack of providers, it means that those who need services the most are often those left without proper care. That is why I am opposed to the CON, as it will impact the safety net services of Behavioral Health services provided to our community, therefore, Blessing Health System would not be able to provide the best care, services and programs to our community, especially those who suffer from behavioral health issues. Members of our community will then be forced to travel hours/miles to receive care which could also be a financial burden on them. We would be causing more harm than good. The best thing for our community would be for Blessing Health System and Quincy Medical Group to continue to cooperate and work together to improve the health of our community and provide excellent care to all that we serve and love.

I respectfully ask that the Health Facilities and Services Review Board deny the CON application 18-042, Quincy Medical Group Surgery Center in Quincy, Illinois.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Elaine Lochman".

Elaine Lochman

Shelli R Hoffman  
3619 Meadowbrook Rd  
Quincy, IL 62305

January 29, 2019

Ms. Courtney R. Avery  
Administrator  
Illinois Health Facilities and Services Review Board  
525 West Jefferson, 2<sup>nd</sup> Floor  
Springfield, IL 62761

**Re: Opposition to CON 18-042, Quincy Medical Group Surgery Center In Quincy, Illinois**

Dear Ms. Avery,

Hello. I am an employee of Blessing Physician Services and I am very concerned about this proposal. I am especially uneasy about what this would do to our community. We have lost several retail businesses and restaurants that caused job loss already. Why have additional hardship causing more unemployment. Along with taking a percentage of profits to Iowa through Unity Point, an Iowa-based business partner of Quincy Medical Group, money that is currently being spent in our city. Not to mention it would be a duplication of services for Quincy.

Currently Blessing and QMG have an outpatient surgery center together. It has been successful for over 10 years now. QMG presently manages it with Blessing owning the service. These businesses owe it to the community to work together not against each other. The duplication of services will cause both facilities to operate with less revenue. This revenue generated from the outpatient surgery at the present time is used for many community benefit programs and services. What will those patients, who received our charity care in the past, do when in need of healthcare but not able to pay for it? What about our safety net services the community and surrounding area's relies on; such as behavioral health care and trauma care? These funds need to remain here not in Iowa.

In closing, I respectfully ask that the Health Facilities and Services Review Board deny Quincy Medical Group Surgery Center request. Only by QMG and Blessing working together can the health of our communities be improved.

Sincerely,



Shelli R Hoffman

January 25, 2019

Ms. Courtney R. Avery  
Administrator  
Illinois Health Facilities and Services Review Board  
525 West Jefferson, 2<sup>nd</sup> Floor  
Springfield, IL 62761

**Re: Opposition to CON 18-042, Quincy Medical Group Surgery Center in Quincy, Illinois**

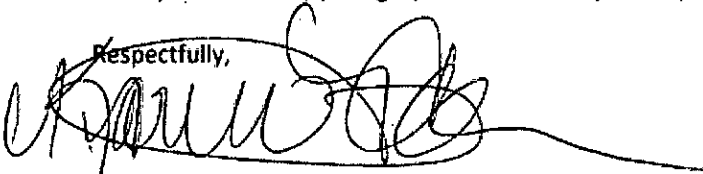
Dear Ms. Avery:

As an employee of Blessing Hospital, I strenuously OPPOSE Quincy Medical Group's Surgery Center proposal for the following reasons:

- It is a duplication of services
- It will be damaging to the community benefit programs and services currently offered by Blessing Health System
- It will result in significant job loss at Blessing Health System, the area's largest employer
- The community deserves cooperation between Blessing Health System and Quincy Medical Group

I respectfully ask that the Health Facilities and Services Review Board deny CON application 18-042 by Quincy Medical Group Surgery Center. Thank you for your consideration.

Respectfully,



Karen Coe



Ms. Courtney R. Avery

Administrator

Illinois Health Facilities and Services Review Board

525 West Jefferson, 2<sup>nd</sup> floor

Springfield, IL 62761

Dear Ms. Avery:

My name is Teresa Barnes. I've worked at Blessing Hospital for over 17 years. I oppose the Opposition to CON 18-042 that Quincy Medical Group surgery center in Quincy Illinois.

Blessing Hospital and QMG have worked well together for many years. There is no need for another surgery department. Many people would be affected by this change in a negative way. There would be a loss of many jobs at Blessing Hospital. The community of Adams County and the surrounding area would also be affected in a negative way. Blessing Hospital is a non-profit organization where QMG is not. The community depends on the support Blessing Hospital gives for their health and financial needs. If they were to separate it would be devastating for many people that are not able to help themselves. Do to the potential loss of mental health and emergency services to the surrounding communities.

Please do not let this CON 18-042 pass. I respectfully ask that the Quincy Medical Group Center DENY CON application 18-042

Sincerely,

*Teresa Barnes*

Ms. Courtney R. Avery

Administrator

525 West Jefferson, 2<sup>nd</sup> Floor

Springfield, IL 62761

Dear Ms. Avery

My name is Carol Hastings and I am a Nurse LPN in the Surgical Service Department at Blessing Hospital in Quincy IL. I Oppose the CON 18-042, Quincy Medical Group Surgery Center in Quincy Illinois.

I object the proposal as this is our main source of income for my family.

I believe in the non for profit at Blessing Hospital as it assist the Quincy and surround area with financial needs and many of our patients are very much in need of assistance when it comes to their health care .

Due to the income that we generate from our Surgical Service department . I understand that we could loose the Mental Health and Emergency Room funding and this could be an amazing loss to the community and surrounding area .

I have 2 family members with Mental Health needs and this is very important to myself and my family that the Mental Health Service at Blessing Hospital is maintained by the funding that Blessing Hospital provides to them .

Please know that this very important to the area that this be opposed!!!

Sincerely

Carol Hastings LPN

1/30/19

Ms. Courtney R. Avery  
Administrator  
Illinois Health Facilities and Services Review Board  
525 West Jefferson, 2<sup>nd</sup> Floor  
Springfield, IL 62761

**Re: Opposition to CON 18-042, Quincy Medical Group Surgery Center in Quincy, Illinois**

Dear Ms. Avery:

Hello; my name is Lisa Kerker, I am an RN working at Blessing Hospital for the past 33 years. As a nurse employed by Blessing Hospital I have many concerns about QMG having a surgery center with many duplicate services in Quincy IL.

The concerns I have are related to impact this duplicate of services will cause to Blessing Hospital, therefore limiting the amount of vital services that they are able to be provided with the current situation ie: psychiatric and outpatient care coordination. I also am concerned that there is a great nursing shortage and we have difficulty finding coverage for the current process. The last concern I have is that QMG tried years earlier to have a surgery center and when they were unable to make a success of this endeavor, Blessing took over the center. I am afraid that if they are unable to successfully manage this center, Blessing will not need to assist them and many employees and patients' lives would be affected if it would have to close, after a great divide had been created in our community.

I respectfully ask that the Health Facilities and Services Review Board deny CON application 18-042. Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely/Very truly yours/Respectfully,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Lisa Kerker".

Lisa Kerker, RN, BSN, ACM

1/30/19

Ms. Courtney R. Avery  
Administrator  
Illinois Health Facilities and Services Review Board  
525 West Jefferson, 2<sup>nd</sup> Floor  
Springfield, IL 62761

**Re: Opposition to CON 18-042, Quincy Medical Group Surgery Center in Quincy, Illinois**

Dear Ms. Avery:

My name is Susan Tate, RN, BSN for which I work for Blessing Hospital. I am Coordinator for Blessing Home Care & Hospice. I am very opposed to having a separate Surgery Center for QMG as I do not feel it looks as if Blessing and QMG are working together to the community. This unification is very much seen throughout Blessing and the community expects to facilities to be working together.

Blessing has worked very hard to keep the alliance between Blessing and QMG with all items within our facility. First of all we have a wonderful Orthopedics team at QMG that works closely with Blessing to perform their surgeries now. Blessing has a Cancer Center that is local that is between Blessing and QMG along with the current Surgery Center between Blessing and QMG. Don't get me wrong, having competition is good, but having 2 separate Surgery Centers or not having one where Blessing and QMG has an alliance would confuse the community. The community would not be aware that the money that will be generated by QMG Surgery Center would not stay local, as QMG has an affiliation with Unity Point out of Iowa, and a large sum of the money be split between Iowa and Quincy, Illinois; which is not how the merger with the current Surgery Center between Blessing and QMG currently operates.

I respectfully ask that the Health Facilities and Services Review Board deny the Quincy medical Group Surgery Center. Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

Susan Tate, RN, BSN  
Outreach Coordinator Blessing Home Care/Hospice  
Blessing Home Care  
Phone: 217.242.9453  
Fax: 217.222.7480

January 30, 2019

Ms. Courtney R. Avery  
Administrator  
Illinois Health Facilities and Services Review Board  
525 West Jefferson, 2<sup>nd</sup> Floor  
Springfield, IL 62761

**Re: Opposition to CON 18-042, Quincy Medical Group Surgery Center in Quincy, Illinois**

Dear Ms. Avery:

I am writing to you today to request that you reject the Quincy Medical Group Certificate of Need Application for an Ambulatory Surgical Center. I am a Senior Decision Support Analyst with Blessing Hospital. In my role, I track and develop reports on statistics and profit/loss for the hospital. I can tell you that should Quincy Medical Group be successful in its efforts, Blessing will suffer greatly due to the loss of volume QMG Physicians currently represent.

More than 70% of the current procedures done in a given year at the Surgery Center are performed by Quincy Medical Group physicians. I'm sure you know very well that no business can sustain a loss of 70% of its business in an entire service line. I can't and don't speak for Blessing, but I would foresee the closure of Blessings Surgery Center should QMG be granted their request.

Undoubtedly, you are also aware that hospitals have many functions which they have out of necessity which are not financially viable. Inpatient Psychiatric Care is one service Blessing provides which we are not required to have. This service is hard to find across the state. Our Psych Unit has steady admissions from Rock Island, Peoria, Springfield, Northeast Missouri and all parts in between in addition to our local patients. This is a service that serves a highly indigent population who will be subject to traveling hours away from Quincy (away from their support networks) to receive care if Blessing should decide to abandon this mission in a cost saving measure. The City of Quincy and Adams County will feel the impact of such a decision in their law enforcement, ambulance transfer services and jail services as will citizens throughout Western/West Central Illinois who will find it even more difficult to find care.

I urge you to reject this proposal and encourage Quincy Medical Group and Blessing Hospital to strengthen and renew their cooperation to the benefit of all populations in the Quincy Area especially those that are most in need of Safety Net Services

Sincerely,



Ken Stegeman  
Senior Decision Support Analyst  
Blessing Hospital

ms. Courtney R Avery  
Administrator

Illinois Health Facilities Review Board  
525 West Jefferson 2nd Floor  
Springfield IL 62701

Re: opposition to CON 18-042

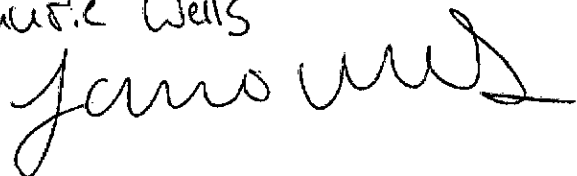
Quincy medical Group  
Surgery Center in Quincy  
Illinois

Dr ms Avery.

I am Laurie Wells, I am an account manager for Denman linen. I oppose the CON referenced above. The duplication of service would affect the community negatively. Competition will drive up cost for our community.

I Respectfully ask that the Health Facilities and Services Review board deny the CON application 18-042. Thank you for your consideration

Sincerely Laurie Wells



January 16, 2019

Ms. Courtney R. Avery  
Administrator

Illinois Health Facilities and Services Review Board  
525 West Jefferson 2<sup>nd</sup> Floor  
Springfield, IL 62761

Re: Opposition to CON 18-042. Quincy Medical Group Surgery  
Center in Quincy, IL.

Dear Ms. Avery:

I am the Finance Supervisor of Hannibal Clinic,  
which is owned by Blessing Health System. I oppose  
to the above-referenced CON project.

Adding a third Surgery Center to the Community  
will only drive costs up. The additional capital  
without new demand will increase employer costs  
and decrease the amount of resources available  
to the Community.

I respectfully ask that the Health Facilities and  
Services Review Board deny CON application 18-042.  
Thank you for your consideration.

Respectfully,  
Jazzalynn R. R.

January 25, 2019

Ms. Courtney R. Avery  
Administrator  
Illinois Health Facilities and Services Review Board  
525 West Jefferson, 2<sup>nd</sup> Floor  
Springfield, IL 62761

**Re: Opposition to CON 18-042, Quincy Medical Group Surgery Center in Quincy, Illinois**

Dear Ms. Avery:

As an employee of Blessing Hospital, I strenuously OPPOSE Quincy Medical Group's Surgery Center proposal for the following reasons:

- It is a duplication of services
- It will be damaging to the community benefit programs and services currently offered by Blessing Health System
- It will result in significant job loss at Blessing Health System, the area's largest employer
- The community deserves cooperation between Blessing Health System and Quincy Medical Group

I respectfully ask that the Health Facilities and Services Review Board deny CON application 18-042 by Quincy Medical Group Surgery Center. Thank you for your consideration.

Respectfully,

  
Ashley Davis



1/29/2019

Ms. Courtney R. Avery  
Administrator  
Illinois Health Facilities and Services Review Board  
525 West Jefferson, 2<sup>nd</sup> Floor  
Springfield, IL 62761

**Re: Opposition to CON 18-042, Quincy Medical Group Surgery Center in Quincy, Illinois**

Dear Ms. Avery:

My name is Katelyn Stout and I am a clinical pharmacist at Blessing Hospital. I have worked at Blessing Hospital for 3 years. I oppose the CON 18-042, QMG surgery center in Quincy, IL.

Adding another surgery center is duplication of resources because Blessing Hospital already works with QMG at the current surgery center at 11<sup>th</sup> and Hampshire Street in Quincy, IL. Blessing and QMG have worked together over 10 years to provide excellent service at the current surgery center. The current surgery center is not operating at full capacity so adding another surgery center does not make sense. The money generated from the current surgery center helps the community significantly. Taking the revenue generated from a non-for-profit organization and giving it to a for-profit organization will result in less community support, which will harm the community. The money will leave the community and will especially harm behavioral health care and trauma care. Hundreds of jobs will be lost at Blessing Hospital by adding another surgery center. This will lead to additional unnecessary healthcare expenses.

I respectfully ask that the Health Facilities and Services Review Board deny CON application 18-042. Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Katelyn Stout".

Katelyn Stout, Pharm.D., BCPS